

# THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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AUTHENTIC

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*"What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year."*

— Vern McLellan

## Aruba welcomes 2014 with a bang!



ORANJESTAD -- The nights sky was alight with color and drama beginning at sundown on December 31, but the truly

dramatic displays took over after midnight, as resorts sponsored professional pyrotechnics to officially welcome the new year.

Traditionally, one of the most memorable is the Renaissance show over Oranjestad Harbor, creating a memorable tableau. This year, the spanking new Ritz-Carlton also welcomed 2014 with a spectacular display over Palm Beach.

Whether in the streets of the capital or observing from a hotel room, regular visitors can confirm that Aruba is a very special place to spend New Year's...and not only because you don't have to nearly freeze to death waiting for a ball to drop in Times Square. Happy New Year to all from THE MORNING NEWS and wishing you all things wonderful in 2014!

By Rosalie Klein

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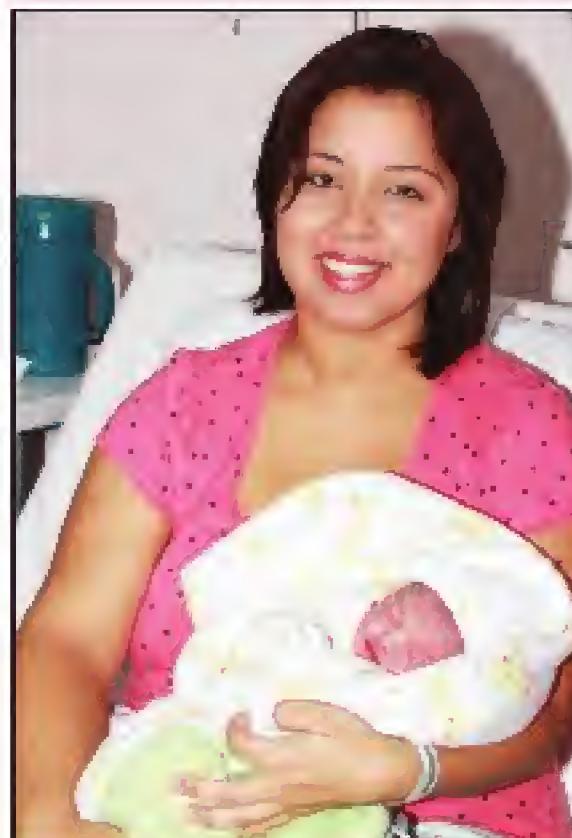
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## Kaliah Emanuels is the first baby born in 2014



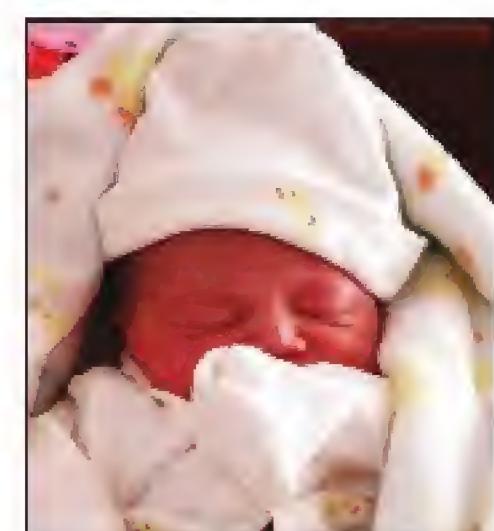
First baby of the year with mother

ORANJESTAD -- Proud parents Katherine and Rachean Emanuels showed off their brand new daughter, and the first baby born on Aruba in 2014, Kaliah, early Wednesday morning at the Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital. The little girl, weighing in at 2760 grams (6lbs 1oz) and measuring 49.34 CM, (19.43 inches) was born at the hospital at 4:13 AM on January 1, 2014, through a natural birth with the assistance of a midwife. Mother and daughter are doing fine.

The parents and Kaliah's

older brother, Rachean, 2 years old, received island media and representatives of both Romar Trading and Compras Agencies, who regaled the family with gifts of essential baby items. Katherine reports her water broke at around 2:00 PM on December 31, and she went into serious labor just before midnight.

Kaliah and her mother are sharing a room with the second baby born this year, also a little girl, named Alexienne Santiago, who was born only 42 minutes after Kaliah, at 4:55 AM. This is the first child for her



Kaliah Emanuels

parents Jaritza Croes and Alex Santiago.  
Continued on pg 4



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## *"Home for the Holidays" means sharing them on Aruba at the Tamarijn for 3 families*



**Strong friendships forged at the Tamarijn Resort:** Pictured at left: The Minichiello family with Kim Powers and Eddy Bradshaw; at right: Irene and Gregory McNamara with Kaitlyn and Laurie

ORANJESTAD -- They met seventeen years ago sharing a beach at the Tamarijn and Divi Resorts, and for three families from Massachusetts, Maryland and New Jersey, who would not have met otherwise, being together on Aruba has become their traditional way to celebrate Christmas and New Years.

Kim Powers and Eddy Bradshaw of Berkley, Mass.,

also considered themselves privileged to have seen their Aruba-forged friendship with the McNamara family of Wayne, New Jersey go beyond the two weeks they spend together at the end of the year. They have welcomed Irene and Gregory and their daughters Kaitlyn and Laurie to their home near Cape Cod for a number of visits during the year, as well as Jim and Pam

Minichiello, who have also enjoyed playing host at their Maryland home. The Minichiello family began vacationing on Aruba in 1997, and have been to the island to stay at the Divi 47 times since then.

The families stay in constant contact back home via e-mail and social networking.

"After a few visits, you begin to recognize certain faces and drift towards them while waiting for towels in the morning, or to be seated for a meal," explains Pam. "The next thing you know, you have enjoyed their company and conversation so much, you are seeking them out and making dinner dates." So it was for the three couples, who realized that for several years now,

they dine together for at least half their meals, and always on Christmas and New Years.

"I guess these are our "extended Aruba family" observes Irene. Her husband Greg agrees. "We hold a palapa and lounges for each other while one goes off to lunch. When we started coming here our daughters were little, and Kim and Eddy would babysit them so Irene and I could have an adults-only dinner now and then. We have all become very close."

"It was a pleasure for us," confirms Eddy, "we didn't mind in the least. The girls became my grandchildren surrogates at holiday time, as mine couldn't leave school to spend these weeks with us on Aruba."

This year, to celebrate another great year together at

holiday time, the three couples shared New Year's Eve at the stylish Paparazzi Italian restaurant, which is one of the options offered by the all-inclusive resorts. "We love the cozy ambiance and the warm hospitality of the restaurant and the resort," they agreed.

Divi and Tamarijn staffers reciprocate in their appreciation of their congenial annual visitors. Executive management staff member Francis Ridderstap affirms, "We do so appreciated them for coming to Aruba and the Divi/Tam year after year for so long. It is just as much a pleasure for us to host them for the holidays as it is for them to spend them on the island. They are the sort of people who make our work so rewarding."

By Rosalie Klein

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<b>Calco "Conch" in Creole or garlic sauce</b>	<b>US\$ 2170 AFIs. 38.00</b>	
(Includes: Rice, coleslaw, french fries & fried plantain)		
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## Bidding farewell to 2013, Aruba style, with flash and thunder!



Hundreds attend MetaCorp's lighting of the pagara in Oranjestad



The noise is supposed to chase away any malicious spirits perhaps lingering about, and the smoke should waft through the premises to cleanse it of bad vibes, referred to as Fuku, (pronounced FOO-KOO...we kid you not!) and ensure a prosperous new year.

Continued on pg 5



Hotel guest line up to observe the spectacle at the Marriott

ORANJESTAD -- Veteran visitors to Aruba for New Year's Eve know the island commemorates the annual changeover in a most spectacular fashion. The skies are alight and the air filled with the flash and thunder of thousands of fireworks, particu-

larly just at midnight.

A very important part of this beloved tradition, however, is for businesses and household to mark the end of the year with the lighting of a pagara, a long string of firecrackers that could measure anywhere from 500 to five

million and beyond. This is de rigueur particularly for companies upon finally closing their doors for business in the old year, which accounts for the two very noisy days often preceding the actual changeover from one to the next.

### Europcar



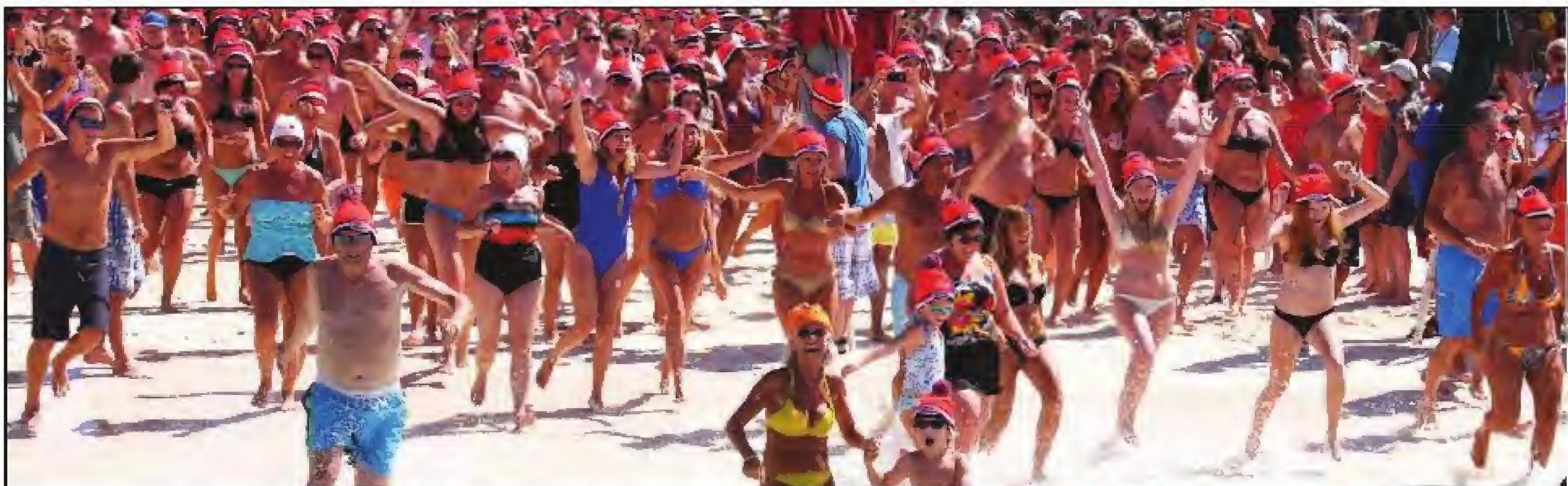
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# A pleasant Aruban twist on a Dutch tradition for welcoming the New Year



ORANJESTAD -- Each year, the coastal town of Scheveningen, Holland has attracted swimmers from across Europe for a bracing way to begin the New Year on January 1, a dip into the icy waters of the North Sea.

This year, they counted a record 40,000 slightly insane participants in this beloved annual tradition, who must then exit the freezing waters to brave well below zero Celsius air temperatures, for the

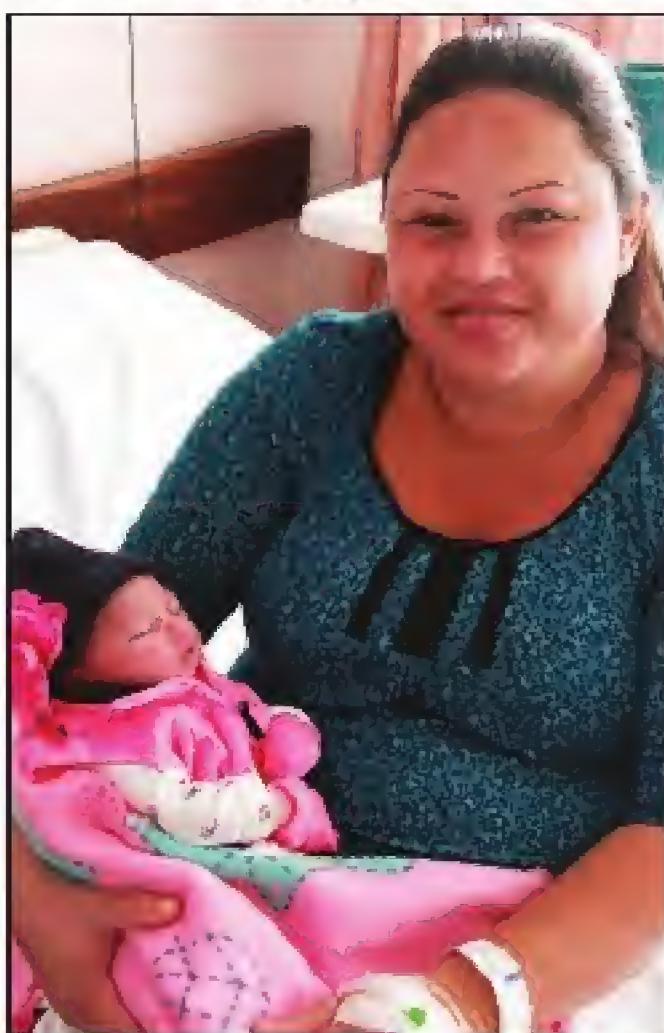
reward of some steaming pea soup and being able to say "I did it!"

MooMba Beach Bar is a favorite retreat on Palm Beach for the island's Dutch population. Four years ago,



## Kaliah Emanuels is the first baby born in 2014

Cont. from pg 1



Second baby Alexienne Croes born at 4.55

This second arrival weighs in at 2830 grams (6.24 pounds) and is 50 CM (19.69 inches)

Both petite bundles of joy were dressed to the nines for their media debut.

The parents expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the nurses of the maternity ward, Jagernath and Geerman for their kind attention and care, along with a warm welcome for the first babies of 2014.



A gift from Romar Trading



By Rosalie Klein

partnering with Unox, a famous soup brand in The Netherlands, they inaugurated their first New Year's Dip. This year, they also report a record number of participants. Unox provided 500 "Santa" hats in the traditional Dutch orange, the national color for the Royal House of Orange, but they were insufficient for all the participants.

The run to the sea was conducted from the MooMba beach, just between the Marriott Surf Club and Holiday Inn. Swimmers were able to dawdle in the sparkling blue waters at tropical temperatures, a far more pleasant immersion than the freezing



waters of the North Sea. Despite the comfortable climate, they were still rewarded with hearty, hot Dutch Pea Soup afterwards, always considered a treat no matter how warm the weather.

By Rosalie Klein

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# Bidding farewell to 2013...

Continued from pg 3



**Marriott's GM Tom Calame and Henry Fingal of Morales Fireworks light it up**



**Dande Singers make the round at Renaissance Mall**

One of the most well attended and high-profile pagara spectacles is conducted by MetaCorp, owners of the Renaissance complexes in Oranjestad. It stopped traffic along L.G. Smith Boulevard on Tuesday afternoon, December 31, as the six million shot pagara was laid out, encompassing the entirety of the Renaissance street front, from The Cinemas to the Crystal Casino.

With two huge cruise ships in port, the 1:00 PM display drew countless tourists, along with islanders who consider it an essential part of their end of year ritual.

It took 25 minutes from start to finish to thunderously make its way along the waterfront, followed by MetaCorp staffers.

Strolling Dande minstrels, performing the island music particularly associated with the year's end, wended their way through the Renaissance Mall, stopping and each store and treating shoppers to a dose of authentic Aruban tradition.

Just over an hour later, Marriott Resorts GM Tom Calame, assisted by Henry Fingal of Morales Fireworks, set off a 12 million shot pagara for the enjoyed of their guests and staffers, a symbolic end to their year. The string of firecrackers was so huge, it had to be laid out in a serpentine pattern, stretching through their parking lots from the entrance to the Marriott Surf Club and winding around to the beach access between the Marriott Resort proper and the Ritz-Carlton.

Though they have always performed this island ritual for the guests and associates, this was the second year the executive staff of the Marriott resorts regaled them with a pagara of such magnitude. Island visitors new to the tradition soon discovered that such a length takes nearly an hour to complete and how very noisy and smoky it can be!

By Rosalie Klein



**Staffers and tourists bid farewell to 2013**



## Early Bird Menu



5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

**Appetizers:** Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas, Choices of Soups

**Entrees:** Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables

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## Aruba's Weather Update

VALID TILL FRIDAY AFTERNOON  
5:00 PM JANUARY 3 2014



**WEATHER:** PARTLY CLOUDY TO MOSTLY SUNNY WITH A CHANCE OF A LOCAL SHOWER

**MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE** 30 CENTIGRADE; **MINIMUM TEMPERATURE** 26 CENTIGRADE.

**SUNRISE** 07:02 AM **SUNSET** 06:27 PM.

**WIND:** MODERATE TO STRONG WINDS DIRECTION EAST AVERAGE 19 KTS GUSTING UP TO 29 KTS.

### GENERAL SITUATION:

IN THE LOWER LEVELS AIR IS MOIST AND UNSTABLE AND THAT CAN CAUSE A LOCAL SHOWER.

MODELS SHOW THAT CURRENT SITUATION WILL NOT CHANGE OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

### MARINE CONDITIONS:

WAVE DIRECCION WILL BE NORTHEAST WITH WAVE-HEIGHTS BETWEEN 7 TO 9 FEET.

**EXPECTATIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK:**  
WEATHER REMAINS PARTLY CLOUDY TO MOSTLY SUNNY WITH CHANCE OF A LOCAL SHOWER.  
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# Snowstorm bears down on northeastern United States



Cars are covered by snow in a rental parking lot at O'Hare's Int. airport in Chicago

NEW YORK, (AFP) - The northeastern United States prepared for snow, high winds and frigid temperatures, as a gust of wintry weather bore down on New England and surrounding states, cancelling flights.

Temperatures in New York were expected to drop to 10 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 12 degrees Celsius) with a windchill factor of minus nine degrees Fahrenheit, according to national weather forecasts.

Tracking system FlightAware said that 1,560 flights entering, leaving or inside the United States had

been canceled as of midday, as the National Weather Service issued a storm warning for parts of New England and New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Heavy winter weather was simultaneously hitting the country's midwest, dropping a blanket of snow and cancelling flights at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

The northeastern winter warning was in effect in New York from Thursday evening through midday Friday, with forecasters predicting six to 10 inches (15 to 25 centimeters) of snow and winds that could reach up to 45 miles

## More than 1,000 chosen for one-way Mars reality-TV mission

THE HAGUE (AFP) - More than 1,000 candidates -- from 200,000 hopefuls -- have been chosen to train for a private Mars colonisation mission to be partly funded by a reality-TV show following their training and subsequent steps, organisers said Thursday.

They are to be whittled down to just 24, who will be sent over six launches starting in 2024, according to Mars One, the Dutch-based non-profit group behind the audacious endeavour.

The only catch is that the space-bound settlers will be on a one-way ticket to the Red Planet which lies a minimum 55 million kilometres (34 million miles) -- six months' travel -- from Earth.

Costs are too high to contemplate a return trip.

Mars One said the selected 1,058 would-be emigrants to Mars, from 140 countries, were informed on December 30 they were the lucky few deemed to meet the criteria -- including an "indomitable spirit", "good judgement", "a good sense of play", disease- and drug-free, English-speaking -- to be interplanetary pioneers.

"The challenge with

200,000 applicants is separating those who we feel are physically and mentally adept to become human ambassadors on Mars from those who are obviously taking the mission much less seriously. We even had a couple of applicants submit their videos in the nude," said organisation co-founder Bas Lansdorp.

The group's chief medical officer, Norbert Kraft, said the candidates will now be called in for "rigorous simulations, many in team settings, with focus on testing (their) physical and emotional capabilities" over the next two years.

The organisers announced last month it signed a \$250,000-dollar (180,000-euro) contract with US group Lockheed Martin Space Systems to build a concept landing module that would be sent in a 2018 unmanned test flight.

Cameras are also to follow the settlement of Mars as those it calls "a new generation of heroes" conduct experiments and work out how to live long and happy lives in airlocked pods, growing their own food, far from their native planet, in a new habitat with a thin, unbreathable atmosphere and sub-zero average temperatures.

## All passengers confirmed rescued from icebound Antarctic ship

SYDNEY (AFP) - All 52 passengers were airlifted Thursday from a Russian research vessel icebound in Antarctica and are safe on board an Australian supply ship, rescuers said.

"Aurora Australis has advised AMSA that the 52 passengers from the Akademik Shokalskiy are now on board," the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said.

Passengers were flown to the Australian ship in groups of 12 by a helicopter from a Chinese icebreaker. The Akademik Shokalskiy has been stuck in ice since December 24, 100 nautical miles east of the French base Dumont d'Urville, with several icebreaking attempts failing to reach it.

After a number of false starts a helicopter evacuation of the research vessel's passengers began on Thursday evening, with official confirmation that it was underway reaching AMSA at 6.15pm Australian time (0715 GMT).

The Australian agency, which is coordinating the rescue mission, reported all passengers were safe on board the Aurora Australis -- an Australian government supply ship -- at 10.15pm, some four hours later.

Passengers were airlifted from a makeshift landing pad on the ice beside the Russian ship to an ice floe near the Australis. Expedition leader Chris Turney expressed relief that the wait was finally over.

"We've made it to the Aurora Australis safe and sound. A huge thanks to the Chinese and the (government's) Australian Antarctic Division for all their hard work," Turney tweeted.

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## New York Times, Guardian call for Snowden clemency

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The New York Times and Guardian newspapers called Thursday for US leaker Edward Snowden to be granted clemency for his revelations on US government spying.

The two dailies in separate editorials hailed the fugitive computer specialist, who has sought refuge in Russia after leaking reams of information about the secretive US National Security Agency and its data gathering techniques.

"He may have committed a crime to do so, but he has done his country a great service," the Times wrote.

Britain's Guardian newspaper meanwhile urged Washington "to allow Mr Snowden to return to the US with dignity," calling his revelations exposing the extent of Washington's electronic eavesdropping at home and abroad an act of "moral courage."

Obama has said he welcomes debate about the NSA's role as he weighs possible changes to its broad powers, but has refused to discuss the possibility of amnesty or a presidential pardon for Snowden.

In mid-December, the White House renewed its demand for the fugitive leaker to return home to face trial.

The call to offer Snowden clemency gathered steam Thursday when Human Rights Watch's executive director Kenneth Roth tweeted that "Snowden exposed major misconduct. Others filing official complaints were ignored/persecuted. He should be pardoned."

## Indian teenager gang-raped and set ablaze: police

KOLKATA (AFP) - An Indian teenager was gang-raped in two separate attacks and then died after being set on fire, sparking protests in the eastern city of Kolkata and the capital, police said Thursday.

The 16-year-old was first assaulted on October 26 and then again the next day by a group of more than six men near her family's home in the town of Madhyagram, 25 kilometres (15 miles) north of Kolkata.

The second rape occurred as she was returning home after reporting the first attack at a

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AFP.

"The accused tried to kill my daughter by setting her on fire to hush up their crimes," the victim's father, a migrant taxi driver from India's poorest state Bihar, told AFP.

Several hundred activists on Wednesday protested in Kolkata over the crime, notable for its shocking brutality even after a year when sex crimes have been widely reported in India.

Activists also gathered in the capital New Delhi on Thursday, accusing the West Bengal

government and police of failing to act swiftly after the girl lodged her initial complaint.

"We strongly believe that if your government had acted against the criminals... the subsequent horrific events would have been prevented and the young woman's life could have been saved," the All India Democratic Women's Association, who organised the protest, and other activists wrote in a letter to the state's chief minister.

A top state official said authorities would move quickly to ensure those responsible for

the girl's rape and death were brought to justice, the Press Trust of India reported.

Rampant rape, assault and harassment of women in India has been highlighted in the past 12 months after the fatal gang-rape of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in New Delhi in December 2012 sparked nationwide outrage.

Activists say rape victims often face severe threats and intimidation from their attackers, while police often discourage them from lodging complaints.

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## Scientists discover hormone that blocks marijuana buzz

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A naturally occurring hormone acts as spontaneous defense in the brain against the high

caused by marijuana and could be useful in preventing addiction, researchers said Thursday.

French researchers studied lab rats and found that the steroid hormone pregnenolone reduced the activity of a particular brain molecule called the type-1 cannabinoid receptor (CB1).

The hormone, which was not previously believed to have any biological effect of its own, actually cancels out the "high" caused by THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, according to lead author Pier Vincenzo Piazza of the French Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM).

"Their discovery could lead to new approaches to treating marijuana intoxication and addiction -- and it may allow researchers to isolate the medicinal properties of cannabis while blocking its behavioral and somatic effects."

About 147 million people globally -- or about 2.5 percent of the population -- use cannabis, according to the World Health Organization.

While cannabis products can alleviate symptoms of depression, glaucoma, spasms, and nausea associated with cancer and AIDS, they are also known to impair brain development, memory and lung function, and some say they can lead to addiction.

If pregnenolone's effect can be confirmed, it would mark "the first pharmacological therapy for cannabis dependence," he added.

## Resolution 2014 - Diet



Is Diet one of your 2014 resolution? Well here's 5- Top tips to help you!

- EAT HEALTHY, LESS: Salt, Sugar, Carbohydrates, Sodas and Alcoholic drinks.
  - TURN OFF THE TV, Dining while viewing can make you take in 40 percent more calories than usual, reports a new study. And texting, driving, or any other distracting activity during a meal can also result in your eating too much. Instead, make each meal something you put on a plate and sit down to, even if you're eating solo.
  - SNACK, BUT SMARTLY, Grazing between meals used to be on the weight-loss hit list. The best picks are filling, protein-packed snacks, such as one stick of string cheese, veggies or a piece of fruit.
  - EAT AT THE SAME TIME EVERY DAY, (including snacks).
  - GO WALKING (even for only 30minutes will help) Walking when the weather's nice is a super-easy way to keep fit and loose weight.
- Dieting and Loosing weight is Not easy, but taking the first step is already a beginning. SUCCESS!!!

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Murano Bijoux and More Presents:  
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Murano Bijoux and More announces the arrival of the new Antica Murrina bracelet: G-Lace. Perfect for all occasions: weddings, gifts, birthdays, etc... All styles: casual, elegant, innovative, in 12 available colors and styles, for only \$ 22!

Sensuality and irony, romanticism and game amboinder a soft kiss on your skin. The handcrafted glass working gives shape to the soft lips by Antica Murrina. Now available only at Murano Bijoux and More, at Paseo Herencia Mall.

We found this unique store in Aruba: the Authentic Murano Glass jewelry and decorations, from Murano- Italy, to Aruba.

"Murano Glass" is only made on the island of Murano. Murano is one of the islands that compose Venice, "Venezia" in Italian.

Murano Bijoux and More is the first and only store with the concept of Murano home decorations and jewelry in the Caribbean. They have a selection of authentic murano art to make your house look spectacular, and fine jewelry made of glass, using many ancient techniques from the best glass masters in Venice/Italy.

Venetian master glassmakers have been appreciated from centuries. From the Romans and people from Egypt and Syria they learnt ancient techniques to turn the humblest materials as sand and soda into masterpieces of lightness and polychrome transparency.

All the pieces are unique, since they are all hand-made. Murano is art, tradition, style and design, it's like an explosion of colors and shapes, from the traditional "millefiori" to the blown glass for lamps, vases and sculptures, the "avventurina" technique, that consists in introduce particles of copper in the glass in the appropriate moment, the exact temperature, so it makes the special effect of an explosion inside the glass head.

The magnificent appearance and coloring of murano glass is achieved by adding gold or silver foil to the glass mixture and/or adding minerals such as zinc for white, cobalt for blue, manganese for violet, and so on.

Murano Bijoux and More is a piece of Venice in Aruba. It is location in the Paseo Herencia Mall, local C-10.

Open Hour: Monday to Saturday: 10:30am-1:00pm and 2:00pm-10:00pm; Sunday: 6:00pm-10:00pm. Contact: [murano\\_aruba@gmail.com](mailto:murano_aruba@gmail.com) and [facebook.com/muranobijouxandmore](http://facebook.com/muranobijouxandmore)

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**Dinner**

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## Dutch village of Zeeland shares 1,100 €43m lottery win

THE HAGUE - The €42.9m prize in this year's special New Year postcode lottery draw has gone to a Zeeland village with a population of just 1,100.

Everyone in Vrouwenpolder shares the same 4354 postcode numbers and that means every villager who takes part in the lottery will share the winnings.

Half of the prize money will go to people with the complete winning postcode - nine households on the Koningin Beatrixlaan. One householder is set to take €6m, with the others well over €1m, Nos television said. 'It has not yet sunk in, but I am a millionaire,' one

winner said.

The remaining money will be shared between the rest of the village players. It is not yet known how many people this will involve but according to the AD, they may get around €20,000 for every ticket.

While the winners celebrated, those who do not take part in the lottery were stoical. 'I am a little sad but I am very happy for my neighbours,' one local told broadcaster Omroep Zeeland. 'But it does hurt.'

The main prize in the €30m state lottery Staatsloterij has gone to a winning ticket in Friesland.

## Thousands of Dutch take icy New Year's dip

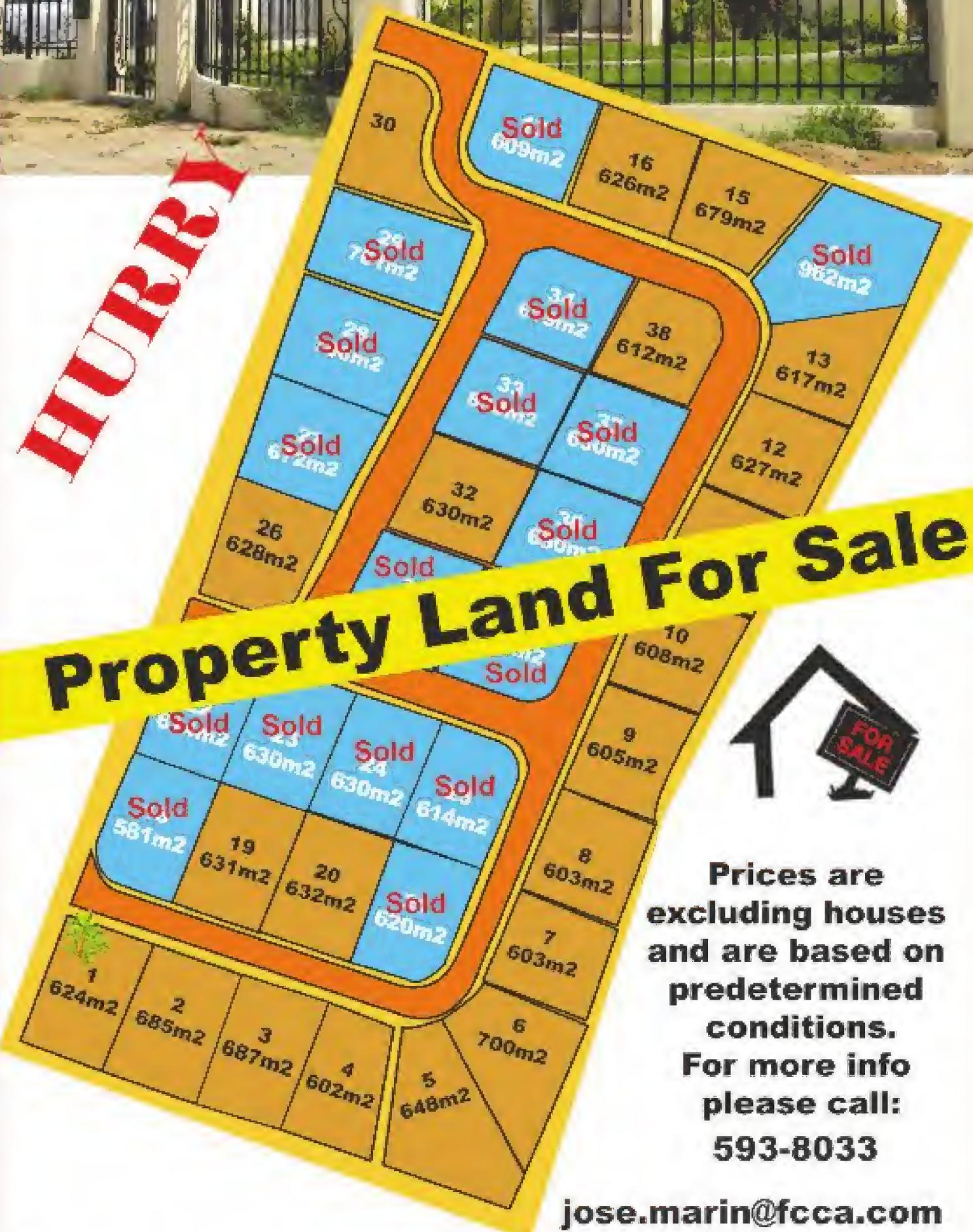


THE HAGUE (AFP) - Tens of thousands of revellers across the Netherlands braved the chilly winter weather on Wednesday to take a traditional New Year's plunge in the North Sea's icy waters. Around 10,000 swimmers -- most dressed only in shorts and bikinis -- stormed the waves at The Hague's historic Scheveningen beach, while around 34,000 others did the same in 125 locations around the lowlands country, organisers said. The so-called "Nieuwejaarsduik" (New Year's Dive) started in 1960 when a few friends decided to go for a swim to herald in a fresh start to the new year, organiser Esther Okker told AFP. Since then it has grown into an annual tradition, with swimmers receiving a coveted orange beanie hat and a tin of Dutch pea soup as a reward from the event's sponsors. Okker said conditions were "relatively warm" this year with the ocean around 7.5 degrees Celsius (45.5 degrees Fahrenheit) and outside temperature at around 8.0 degrees. However, the omnipresent wind on the beach chilled things down to around 3.0 degrees, she added.

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**Lawyer fined for leaking JK Rowling identity** - LONDON (AFP) - The lawyer who blew the cover of Harry Potter author JK Rowling when she wrote a crime novel under a pen name has been fined £1,000 (1,200 euros, \$1,650) for breaching the privacy rules of his profession. Chris Gossage confided in his wife's best friend that Rowling had written "The Cuckoo's Calling" under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith. Gossage has also been issued with a written rebuke from the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). Rowling took legal action against Gossage and his friend Judith Callegari, who had revealed the information in a Twitter exchange with Sunday Times journalist India Knight. Rowling said at the time she was "angry" after her pen name was then publicly revealed by the Sunday Times in July last year. Rowling accepted an apology from Gossage's law firm Russells Solicitors and substantial damages, in the form of a donation to a charity for army veterans.

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## Snapchat hackers post phone numbers of 4.6 million users online

PARIS (AFP) - Hackers broke into Snapchat, the hugely popular mobile app, accessing the phone numbers and usernames of 4.6 million users and publishing them online, tech news website TechCrunch has announced.

The numbers were partially masked when they were briefly published on SnapchatDB.info, and the unidentified hackers told TechCrunch they had done this "to convince the messaging

app to beef up its security."

Snapchat, which allows people to send smartphone photos or video snippets timed to self-destruct 10 seconds or less after being opened, has become hugely popular among teenagers who are easing away from Facebook.

But Australian firm Gibson Security warned last week that glitches in the application could be exploited by hackers.

"Our motivation behind the release was to raise the public

awareness around the issue," the hackers said in a statement, published on TechCrunch late Wednesday. "It is understandable that tech startups have limited resources but security and privacy should not be a secondary goal. Security matters as much as user experience does."

Created by students at Stanford University in 2011, Snapchat reportedly rejected a \$3 billion takeover offer from Facebook last year.

## America's first marijuana stores open in Colorado

DENVER (AFP) - Marijuana users celebrated Wednesday as Colorado became the first US state to allow retail cannabis sales, putting it in the vanguard of efforts across the country to legalize the drug. The western state famous for its ski resorts and breathtaking mountain vistas has issued 348 retail licenses -- including for small pot shops -- than can sell up to 28 grams of pot to people aged 21 or older.



Washington state on the Pacific Coast will follow Colorado several months from now, when it also allows stores to begin selling cannabis. As America's attitudes on marijuana use evolve, Colorado and Washington legalized recreational consumption of the drug in November 2012 referendums, but the new rules coming into force allow cannabis shops. "It just makes it an item of commerce, like going into a liquor store," a gray-haired Charles Pierce, 61, told AFP at the Denver Kush Club, where pot fans lined in the wind and sleet for the 8:00 am (1500 GMT) opening. State officials here anticipate that marijuana sales will generate some \$67 million in annual tax revenue. Opponents of legalized cannabis warn that it can lead to higher rates of marijuana use and addiction, even among young people who technically are not sanctioned to use the drug.

## Fox meat makes an ass of Wal-Mart's China donkey product

BEIJING (AFP) - Global retail giant Wal-Mart Stores has recalled a donkey meat product from some Chinese stores after tests found traces of other animals' DNA, the company said Thursday, after authorities said it contained fox meat.

The world's largest retailer will reimburse customers who bought the "Five Spice Donkey Meat" 50 yuan (\$8.25), a spokeswoman told AFP.

The company would also independently DNA test all of its "high risk" meats in China, a procedure which is not required by retailers under Chinese food laws, the spokeswoman said.

Wal-Mart would also cooperate with food officials in the eastern province of Shandong with their probe into the "adulteration incident", said a statement posted on Sina Weibo, a Chinese Twitter equivalent.

The Shandong Food and Drug Administration had pre-

viously said the "Five Spice Donkey Meat" product contained fox.

"We are deeply sorry for this whole affair," said Wal-Mart's China president and CEO Greg Foran according to the Weibo statement, posted Wednesday.

It did not give an explanation for how the contamination happened, but Foran added that the company would increase its focus on "supplier management".

Donkey meat is not a Chinese staple meat dish, but is commonly consumed as a snack.

China has seen several food safety scares in recent years, including one in which the industrial chemical melamine was added to milk formula in 2008, killing at least six babies and making 300,000 ill.

Wal-Mart plans to open up to 110 new stores in China over the next two years, according to the company's website.



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## Consortium threatens to stop Panama Canal expansion

MADRID (AFP) - A Spanish-led consortium threatened Thursday to halt a massive expansion of the Panama Canal, which handles five percent of world maritime trade, because of a row over cost overruns.

Spanish builder Sacyr, leader of the Grupo Unidos por el Canal consortium, said work will stop unless the canal pays \$1.6 billion in cost overruns for work on the 80-kilometre (50-mile) waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

"GUPC has formally informed the Panama Canal Authority that it will suspend work if the failures to comply are not put right within the advised period," Sacyr said in a statement to Spanish market regulators.

The consortium said it had set the canal authorities a 21-day deadline before suspending its \$3.2 billion contract (2.3 billion euros) to expand the capacity of the canal, notably by installing a third set of canal locks.

The overall cost of the Panama Canal expansion project has been estimated at \$5.2 billion.

News of the suspension threat sent Sacyr shares plunging by more than 18 percent as trade opened on the Madrid stock exchange. By mid-afternoon, they were down 7.75 percent at 3.475 euros.

On Wednesday, Panama canal administrator Jorge Quijano warned that the canal authority would use contractual mechanisms to ensure the completion of the canal expansion.

"No matter what kind of pressure is exercised against the ACP (Panama Canal Authority), we maintain our demand that Grupo Unidos por el Canal respect the contract that they agreed to and signed," he said in a statement quoted by

Panama media.

A year ago, GUPC demanded an extra payment of \$1.6 billion from the Panama Canal Authority due to construction delays.

"There are many and varied unforeseen costs which came up during these gigantic works," a Sacyr spokesman told AFP. "They are technical matters, questions over cement ingredients, geotechnical matters, geological questions, taxes matters, financial matters, labour issues and weather conditions," he said.

Led by Spain's Sacyr, the consortium also includes Impregilo of Italy, Belgian firm Jan De Nul and Panama's Constructora Urbana.

It began work on a third set of locks for the canal in 2009 and expects to complete construction in June 2015, already a nine-month delay over the date set in the contract.

The new locks will accommodate larger ships with a capacity of 12,000 containers -- instead of those with 5,000 containers that are now able to navigate the canal.

Some 13,000 to 14,000 ships navigate the canal each year.

According to the canal authority, there was a delay of four months shortly after the project began to reverse a GUPC plan to use lower-quality cement.

But Sacyr said the cost overruns were due to "unforeseeable" circumstances and had been reported to the relevant authorities, including the Dispute Adjudication Board.

The canal uses a system of locks to raise ships from sea level and enable them to sail through the continental divide.

Meanwhile Panama's president warned he would visit Europe to force the consortium to drop the threat to suspend expansion.

## Oil prices tumble on signs of Libyan comeback

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices Thursday fell sharply on news that a major Libyan field could come back on line later this week.

US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for February delivery fell \$2.98 to \$95.44 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

In London, Brent oil for February delivery tumbled \$3.02 to \$107.78 a barrel in London.

A spokesman for the Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) told AFP Thursday that the 330,000 barrel a day El Sharara field is expected to resume normal output within two or three days, once protesters who have blocked production pull out.

Oil production in Libya has plunged to about 250,000 barrels a day from nearly 1.5 million in the face of demands from armed protesters for

more regional autonomy and greater say over the distribution of oil revenues.

"There's a sense there could be a settlement (with the protesters) and we'll be able to get that oil back on the market," said John Kilduff, founding partner at Again Capital.

Key export terminals in eastern Libya remain blockaded. However, NOC announced earlier this week that two oilfields in southern Libya had resumed on Sunday.

Oil prices also took a hit from a mediocre report on Chinese manufacturing. The HSBC index on Chinese manufacturing activity came in at 50.5 in December, the lowest reading in three months.

Traders will get a fresh round of data on today, when the Department of Energy releases its weekly report on US oil inventories.

A Wall Street Journal survey of analysts forecast a drop of 2.2 million barrels in what would be the fifth straight week to see a decline.

## Year-end figures show Dutch economy is heading for recovery

THE HAGUE - The economic situation at the end of December shows clear improvements on the end of last month, the national statistics office CBS said on Tuesday.

A wide range of economic indicators show more improvement than deterioration, even though all but two are still performing below their long-term average, the CBS said.

Consumer confidence is also improving slightly, although it still remains negative, the CBS said.

The latest issue of the SCP's quarterly public opinion report

also shows an improvement in attitudes towards the Dutch economy. Some 60% of people now expect the economy to remain constant or to improve, compared with 45% in the previous quarter.

Almost 30% now think the country is heading in a good direction, compared with 20% in the previous quarter.

### TUESDAY'S Crossword Answer



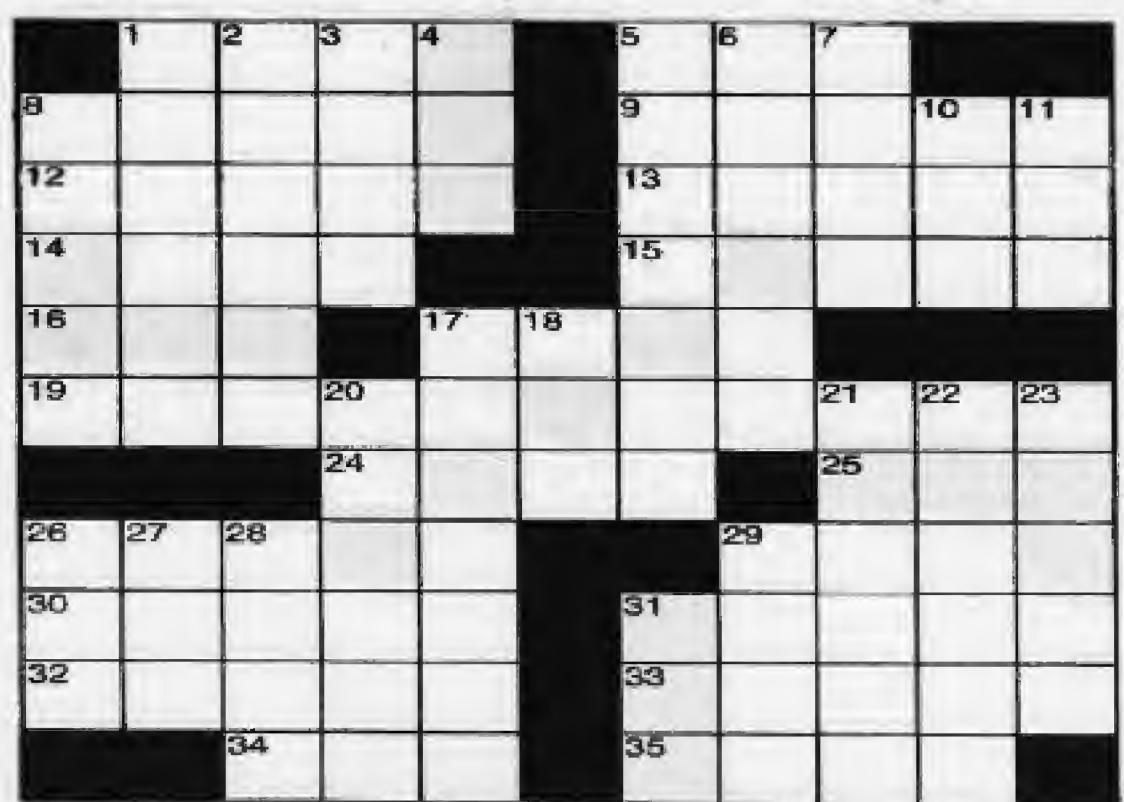
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**ACROSS**

- 1 Actor Kinnear
- 5 Navigation aid
- 8 One held in bondage
- 9 Immigrants' island
- 12 Flutter about
- 13 Delicate purple
- 14 Very wicked
- 15 European steel
- 16 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
- 17 Hoodlum, slangily
- 19 "Royal Wedding" star (2 wds.)
- 24 "— Lonesome I Could Cry" (2 wds.)
- 25 Slangy refusal
- 26 Blind-date reject
- center
- rhythm
- cutter
- red
- preceder
- Bestow
- Capp and Capone
- baseball legend Willie —



**29 Neck region**

**30 Wrist rhythm**

**31 Lawn cutter**

**32 Stoplight's red**

**33 Bestow**

**34 Capp and Capone**

**35 Baseball legend Willie —**

**DOWN**

**1 Danny of "Lethal Weapon"**

**2 Gorge**

**3 Rob Knievel's dad**

**4 Where Munich is (abbr.)**

**5 Reminder**

**6 Canada's neighbor**

**7 Advantage**

**8 Bookcase part**

**10 "— had enough!"**

**11 Mem. of Congress**

**17 Coddles**

**18 American ship abbr.**

**20 Truck fuel**

**21 Sort of (3 wds.)**

**22 Becomes ready to eat, as fruit**

**23 Put forth effort**

**26 Tax expert (abbr.)**

**27 Tropical drink base**

**28 Exile island**

**29 Writer Ephron**

**31 Movie studio inits.**

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**Sudoku**

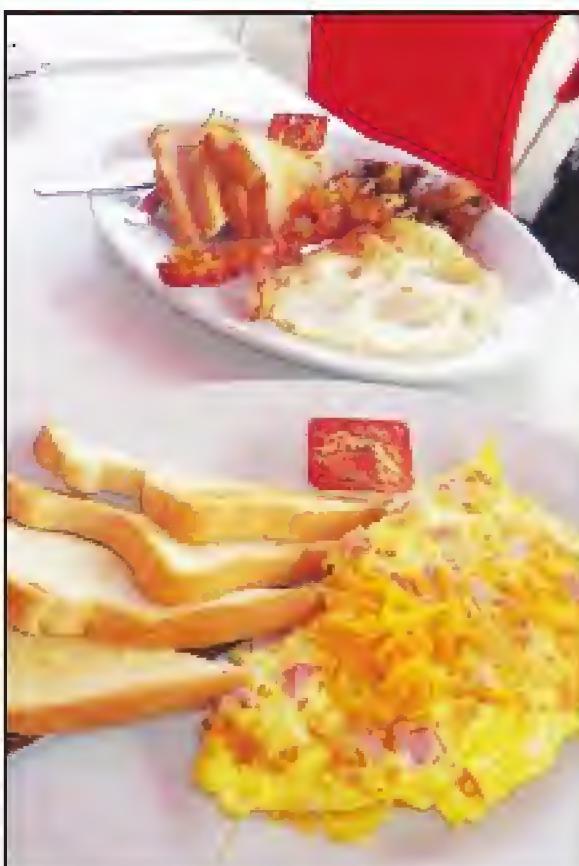
						7		3	5		
7	8							5	4		
	5			6	2						
2	7										4
							4				
9										6	2
							5	8	9		
			1	4						7	5
						8	1	6			

**SOLUTION**

3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

## 5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



**Delicious Breakfast**

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at

8am, patrons can now order 2 eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeno peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are



**ENORMOUS!** Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to

watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

**5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.**

**Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches!** Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway, we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facil-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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## Adam Scott voted Player of the Year by GWAA



NEW YORK - Adam Scott edged Tiger Woods by a mere five votes to be named the Male Player of the Year by the Golf Writers Association of America, the GWAA announced on Thursday. The choice was hardly as close elsewhere as Inbee Park (Female Player of the Year) and

Kenny Perry (Senior Player of the Year) each gathered 91 percent of the 220 votes to take their honors.

Scott became the first Australian to win the Masters in April, then added a FedEx-Cup playoff victory at The Barclays. Those two victories lagged behind the five titles

won by Woods, which earned Woods the Player of the Year honors from both The PGA of America and his colleagues on the PGA Tour.

For the year, Scott — who is ranked second in the world behind Woods — played 20 tournaments worldwide, won four of them, finished in the top-3 eight times, had a remarkable 10 top-10 finishes and never missed a cut. In addition to his win at the Masters, Scott tied for third at the British Open and tied for fifth at the PGA Championship.

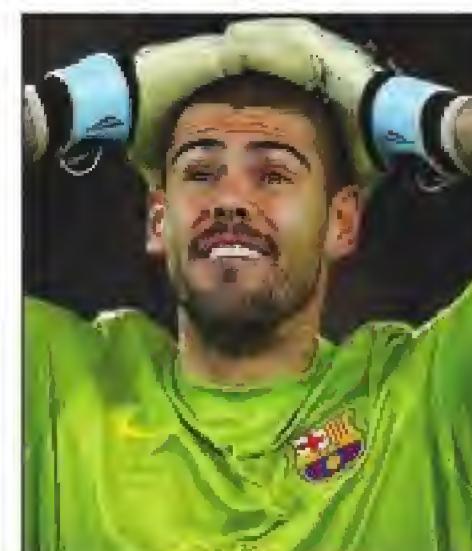
The winners will be honored April 9 at the annual GWAA Awards Dinner in Augusta, Ga., the night before the start of the Masters.

## Tennis: Nadal ousts Gulbis to reach Doha semis

DOHA (AFP) - World number one Rafael Nadal showed his trademark grit and determination on Thursday as he reached the semi-finals of the Qatar Open with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over Latvian Ernests Gulbis. The Spaniard has never previously won an ATP World Tour title in the first week of the season, but he is on course to do so this time after seeing off Gulbis, the only other seeded player left in the draw. Gulbis hit some startling winners, led 5-4 in the first set, and had three points to take a 4-1 lead in the second, but Nadal was always tough and resilient when it mattered most. Nadal also served very well, approached the net more than usual, and his standard went up markedly when it seemed that Gulbis might take a grip on the second set. He next plays unheralded German Peter Gojowczyk, who earlier saw off compatriot Dustin Brown in three sets. Gojowczyk had only ever won one match on the ATP World Tour before this week, but here he continued his run despite coming close to losing in a dramatic decider which finished in a tie-break.



## Football: Barcelona's Valdes declared fit to play



MADRID (AFP) - Doctors have declared Barcelona goalkeeper Victor Valdes fit and ready to play after 44 days on the sidelines with a right calf strain, the Spanish club said on Thursday.

"It is a day of good news for Barcelona's first team. After a training session on Thursday afternoon, doctors gave keeper Victor Valdes the all clear," the club said in a statement.

The 31-year-old could be part of coach Gerardo Martino's side for Barcelona's league match at home to Elche on Sunday.

Valdes sustained the injury during Spain's 1-0 defeat to South Africa in a friendly on November 19 in Johannesburg, the site of their 2010 World Cup final victory.

The player, who has revealed plans to leave the Spanish champions when his current contract expires at the end of this season, has been replaced in the starting line-up in recent weeks by Jose Manuel Pinto.

**American basketball players briefly detained in Libya**  
BENGHAZI (AFP) - Security forces briefly detained on Thursday two Americans playing for a basketball team in Libya's volatile eastern city of Benghazi, a security source said.

The unidentified men, who play for Benghazi's Al-Hilal, "were picked up while they were practising near Garyounes University," said one of the school's security officials.

"They were arrested in the company of two Libyans and were freed after being questioned," the source said without explaining why they had been picked up.

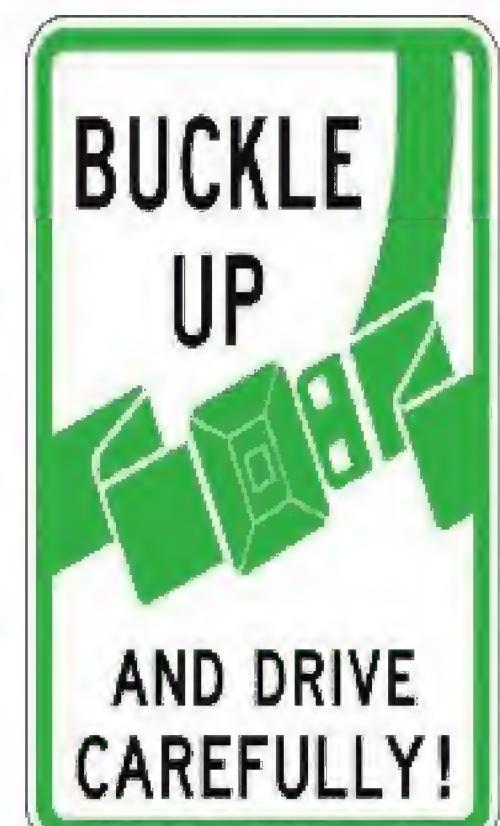
On Friday, four US military personnel on a security mission in Libya were briefly detained near Sabratha, 60 kilometres (36 miles) west of Tripoli, without any reason being given.

The New York Times reported that the four were attached to the US embassy's security team and had been working on scenarios for a theoretical evacuation of US government employees in the country.

The US ambassador and three other Americans were killed in September 2012 when militants assaulted the US consulate in Benghazi.

And an American teacher was shot dead early last month as he jogged in the city.

Since the revolution that ousted and killed long-time dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011, Libya's authorities have struggled to establish security in the country.



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## Tennis: Perfect serve sets up Williams-Sharapova semi

BRISBANE (AFP) - Serena Williams Thursday served a perfect first set on her way to setting up a blockbuster semi-final against bitter rival Maria Sharapova at the Brisbane International.

The top-seeded Williams did not lose a point on serve during the opening set during her comprehensive 6-3, 6-3 win over Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova.

In stark contrast to Williams, Sharapova was forced to recover from an error-strewn start before eventually downing 2012 champion Kaia Kanepi in three sets 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

The second semi-final will be between second seed Victoria Azarenka, who survived a second-set meltdown when she



blew eight match points to beat Swiss Stefanie Voegele 6-4, 6-7 (7-9), 6-1, and fourth seed Jelena Jankovic.

Jankovic was a 6-7 (8/10), 6-3, 6-1 winner over Germany's Angelique Kerber.

Today's semi-final between Williams and Sharapova will be the 17th meeting between the two superstars of the women's game, who make no secret of their frosty personal relationship.

Williams holds a clear advantage over the Russian, winning 14 times against Sharapova, including the last 13 in a row.

Their most recent clash was in the final of last year's French Open, where Williams won a tight battle 6-4, 6-4.

Williams, who lost only four times in 2013, was in irresistible form against Cibulkova.

The world number one said she had been working on her serve in the off-season, but was still surprised at not losing a point in the first set for the first time since juniors.

"She (Cibulkova) was returning really well, she stays so low to the ground and does so many good things, especially off the ground. She's just so powerful," Williams said.

The defending champion was so focused beforehand she almost went on court without

rate in the second and found the length with her ground-strokes, breaking Kanepi twice to level the match.

She then raced away with the third in 33 minutes as her first service percentage lifted from 40 to 84, finishing the match off with her eighth ace.

There was an upset in the men's draw as Romania's Marius Copil downed an out-of-sorts Gilles Simon 7-5, 6-3 (4/7), 6-3.

The third-seeded Frenchman made a host of errors against Copil, dropping serve once in each set to hand the match to his opponent.

Copil will play Australian favourite Lleyton Hewitt, who downed sixth-seeded Spaniard Feliciano Lopez 7-5, 6-3, while in an all French battle, eighth seed Jeremy Chardy beat Nicolas Mahut 7-5, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3.

## NFL: Tebow heads for TV booth after no club deal



NEW YORK (AFP) - Tim Tebow, once a National Football League phenomenon as a quarterback, has signed a deal to become a television analyst after failing to land with a team this season. ESPN announced Monday that Tebow would work as an analyst on collegiate American football on the Southeastern Conference Network when that cable channel launches in August. Tebow, however, will contribute to a variety of ESPN programs and make his television debut next Monday on the pre-game show before the collegiate American football championship game between Auburn University and Florida State University. Tebow played for two US college championship squads at the University of Florida but found limited success in the NFL. He became a celebrity in part for his evangelical views and a widely imitated kneeling move that became known as "Tebowing." In 2011, he began the season as a reserve but rallied the Denver Broncos to a surprise division title and playoff upset of Pittsburgh. Tebow was traded to the New York Jets but threw only eight passes for them in 2012 before being released last April. He did a pre-season training camp with the New England Patriots before being dropped in August. ESPN said Tebow's role would not preclude him from pursuing NFL playing opportunities.

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## **Football: Qatar ready to host World Cup 'whatever the date' - organiser**

DOHA (AFP) - Qatar will be ready to host the 2022 World Cup finals whether the competition is played in summer or winter, Nasser Al-Khater from the organising committee told AFP on Thursday.

Football's world governing body FIFA have launched a consultation process over whether the tournament should be moved from its habitual June and July dates to the winter to avoid the unbearable heat in the Gulf.

However, Al-Khater says the uncertainty has had no impact on Qatar 2022's work thus far.

"Our plans are still to deliver the World Cup in the summer as we have bid and as we have promised," he said.

"And I think it's only right that if there will be a change that the international football community agrees amongst themselves and decides. For us we will be ready regardless of the date that they choose."

With that in mind, work is



underway on the first stadium to be built for the tournament and Al-Khater said that construction will accelerate in 2014.

"We will be announcing five more stadiums in 2014 and five stadiums will be in different sorts of levels of work in 2014," he stated.

"So this is the year where real progress will be showing on the ground."

Plans to cool the air inside the stadiums - one of the most eye-catching elements of Qatar's World Cup bid - will

go ahead even with the doubt surrounding when the tournament will be played, with Al-Khater emphasising the need to improve conditions for domestic competitions too.

"You open the horizons for other countries because this (air-cooling) technology is not just for stadiums," he said.

Al-Khater also insisted that reports in foreign media highlighting the difficult conditions faced by immigrant workers in the tiny country, while creating negative publicity, could turn out to be a positive thing.

## **Schumacher turns 45 while comatose in hospital**



GRENoble (AFP) - Formula One legend Michael Schumacher turned 45 today while lying comatose in a French hospital after suffering critical head injuries in a ski accident. Doctors and family members were tight-lipped Thursday about the condition of the German racing great, who has been hospitalised since Sunday, when he slammed his head against a rock while skiing in the French Alps. There have been conflicting statements about the speed the seven-time world racing champion was going when the tragedy befell him in the Meribel ski resort, where he has a property. The rock impact split the helmet Schumacher was wearing in two, according to a source close to the investigation. The Ferrari F1 team where Schumacher spent many years announced it would on Friday hold a "silent gathering" in front of the Grenoble hospital to mark the birthday of the retired sportsman, who is being kept in an induced coma. Meanwhile, his family posted a message on Schumacher's website that said "we would like to thank the people from all around the world who have expressed their sympathy and sent their best wishes for his recovery."